

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Presently Amended) A method of resolving a dispute as recited in claim 23, [comprising:

at least one of a plurality of parties to the dispute providing, via an on-line connection, an input relating to the dispute;

information related to resolution of the dispute being provided, via the on-line connection, to at least one of the parties; and

providing at least a portion of the input in a publicly accessible on-line form and allowing at least some people who access the on-line form to interact therewith,

wherein the step of allowing interaction includes allowing a question of a party in the dispute, and

wherein the publicly accessible on-line form includes a dispute related advertising field including an advertisement that is selected by a computer based system] wherein the display includes a dispute related advertising field.

2. (Presently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1, [further comprising the step of at least one of the parties providing payment information for use in obtaining a fee associated with the service of providing the resolution related information] wherein the dispute related advertising field includes an advertisement that is selected by a computer based system.

3-7. (Previously cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

determining which people that access the on-line form are permitted to

interact therewith based on an assessment of at least one of the person's knowledge of the law and the person's knowledge of the facts, wherein the determining step includes assessing the person's knowledge by providing the person a set of one or more questions and evaluating the person's responses to the questions.

9. (Presently Amended) A method of resolving a dispute, comprising:
at least one of a plurality of parties to the dispute providing, via an on-line connection, an input relating to the dispute;

information related to resolution of the dispute being provided, via the on-line connection, to at least one of the parties;

providing at least a portion of the input in a publicly accessible on-line form and allowing at least some people who access the on-line form to interact therewith; and determining which people that access the on-line form are permitted to interact therewith based on an assessment of at least one of the person's knowledge of the law and the person's knowledge of the facts,

wherein the determining step includes assessing the person's knowledge by providing the person a set of one or more questions and evaluating the person's responses to the questions, [and]

wherein the person is provided another set of questions from the larger set of questions if the person does not answer a predetermined number of the questions correctly, and

wherein the dispute is resolved based at least in part on input from the person.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of providing educational information to the person prior to providing the another set of questions.

11-20. (Previously cancelled)

21. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the determining step is based on an assessment of the person's knowledge of the law.

22. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the determining step is based on an assessment of the person's knowledge of the facts.

23. (Presently Amended) A method of resolving a dispute, comprising:
at least one of a plurality of parties to the dispute providing, via an on-line connection, an input relating to the dispute; and
interaction directed towards resolving the dispute occurring in substantially real-time between at least one of the parties to the dispute and another person, wherein the substantial real-time interaction is displayed on at least a display and [the display includes a dispute related advertising field including an advertisement that is selected by a computer based system] wherein the dispute is resolved based at least in part on the interaction.

24. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the other person is a juror.

25. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the other person is a third party other than (a) one of the parties to the dispute or (b) a judge.

26. (Previously Amended) A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the step of enabling another third party to view the dispute without enabling the other third party to interact with the parties.

27. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the

interaction comprises a question directed to the at least one of the parties.

28. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the interaction comprises a vote on which party should prevail.

29. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the input is in written form.

30. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of enabling the third party to interact based on an assessment of the third party's knowledge of the law.

31. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising the step of enabling the third party to interact based on an assessment of the third party's knowledge of the facts.

32. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 23, further comprising the step of providing, via the on-line connection, information related to resolution of the dispute to at least one of the parties.

33. (Previously Cancelled)

34. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 23 wherein a computer based system manages the interaction between the parties.

35. (Previously Added) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the input is related to real life facts.

36. (Presently Amended) A method as recited in claim [23] 1, wherein the dispute related advertising field includes an advertisement related to a fact of the dispute.

37. (Presently Amended) A method of resolving a dispute, comprising:

(a) at least one of a plurality of parties to the dispute providing, via an on-

line connection, an input relating to the dispute; and

(b) interaction, directed towards resolving the dispute occurring in substantially real-time, [involving] between a third party and at least one of the parties to the dispute[; and

(c) interaction, occurring in substantially real-time, between a third party and at least one of the plurality of parties to the dispute, wherein the third party is not one of (a) the plurality of parties to the dispute, (b) a judge, and (c) a juror], wherein the dispute is resolved based at least in part on the interaction.

38. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein steps [(b)] (a) and [(c)] (b) occur at substantially the same time.

39. (Previously Added) The method of claim 37 wherein the substantial real-time interaction is displayed on at least a display.

40. (Presently Amended) A system for fostering the resolution of a dispute, comprising:

a computer adapted to receive from at least one of a plurality of parties to the dispute, via an on-line connection, an input relating to the dispute;

the computer further adapted to receive an interaction directed towards resolving the dispute in substantially real-time between at least one of the parties to the dispute and a third party, [; and

the computer further adapted to arrange the input and the interaction for display in substantially real-time as the interaction towards resolving the dispute occurs, on a display of a person who is not one of (a) the plurality of parties to the dispute, (b) a judge, and (c) a juror] wherein the dispute is resolved based at least in part on the interaction.